

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 /070 W
-----141238Z 041690 /14

O R 141057Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8579
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION NATO
USEC BRUSSELS 2646

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 0293

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SP, MT
SUBJECT: SPAIN AND THE MALTESE NEUTRALITY PROPOSAL

REF: 76 STATE 313031 (NOTAL)

1. DRAWING ON REFTTEL, EMBOFFS HAVE OUTLINED FOR FOREIGN MINISTRY DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN AND ATLANTIC AFFAIRS (DEL PINO), IN RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST, US VIEWS REGARDING THE MINTOFF PROPOSAL FOR A GUARANTEE OF MALTA'S ECURITY AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF THE BRITISH IN 1979. THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY STAFF IS CASTING ABOUT SOMEWHAT NERVOUSLY NOW FOR A POSITION ON THIS MATTER WHICH IT CAN PROPOSE TO FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA PREPARATORY TO HIS PLANNED VISIT TO MALTA JAN 21. APPARENTLY THUS FAR THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE SPANISH-MALTESE DIALOGUE ON THIS MATTER BEYOND A MALTESE DEMARCHE IN
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VALLETTA TO THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR. (DEL PINO HAD HIMSELF NOT YET SEEN THE MALTESE DRAFT TREATY.)

2. AS DEL PINO DESCRIBED IT, THE SPANISH DILEMMA APPEARS TO BE HOW TO GRAB A PIECE OF THE ACTION WHILE AVOIDING THE OBVIOUS PITFALLS, MOST NOTABLY THE ECONOMIC ONES.

3. DEL PINO POINTED IN THIS RESPECT TO THE "TRADITIONAL" SPANISH PREFERENCE TO HANDLE SUCH MATTERS BILATERALLY AND WORRIED THAT A FORMAL MULTILATERAL APPROACH MIGHT GIVE MINTOFF TOO MUCH LEVERAGE. HOWEVER, IF THERE WERE TO BE A MULTILATERAL SOLUTION ENTERED INTO BY MORE THAN SAY TWO OTHER STATES, SPAIN WOULD WANT TO BE INCLUDED. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT LIBYAN-ALGERIAN AND POSSIBLE SOVIET AND CHINESE CARDS WHICH MINTOFF MIGHT ATTEMPT TO PLAY AS TIME GOES ON, AND EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN US VIEWS REGARDING POSSIBLE NORTH AFRICAN PARTICIPATION IN SUCH A SCHEME. (EMBOFFS UNDERLINED IN THIS REGARD THAT THE US SPECIFICALLY WELCOMES THE INTEREST OF MALTA'S EUROPEAN MEIGHBORS.) DEL PINO SEEMED FROM HIS COMMENTS WELL AWARE OF THE GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE FRENCH APPROACH AS DESCRIBED IN PARIS 00244 BUT HAD NO PARTICULAR COMMENT ON IT.

4. IN SUM, THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY SEEMS AT THIS POINT PARTICULARLY RECEPTIVE TO CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS. THE AMBASSADOR WILL BE SEEING FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA AT MIDDAY ON MONDAY (JAN17) AND COULD USE THAT OPPORTUNITY TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF OREJA, WHO RECENTLY HAS BEEN EXPOUNDING IN PUBLIC ON MEDITERRANEAN THEMES (NOT MALTA PER SE), AND FURTHER MORE SPECIFIC VIEWS WHICH THE DEPT MIGHT CONSIDER IT USEFUL TO BRING TO BEAR. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, NATIONAL SECURITY, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEUTRALISM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID00293
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770014-0892
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770151/aaaabstp.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 094471d9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 313031
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3598020
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPAIN AND THE MALTESE NEUTRALITY PROPOSAL
TAGS: PFOR, SP, MT, (MINTOFF, DOMINIC)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/094471d9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009